

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-59 Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

60. (Previously Presented) A portable keying device for installing an encryption key into at least one electronic terminal, the portable keying device comprising:

a memory device for storing the at least one encryption key; and

a communications unit coupled to said memory device, the communications unit being operative to transmit said at least one encryption key to an electronic terminal according to a pre-determined format, said electronic terminal including a secure memory location for storing said encryption key, said pre-determined format including transmission of an RF signal at a predetermined power level of less than or equal to 1mW, and transmission of said RF signal in a direction that resides within an angular range of plus or minus 15 degrees or less of a certain direction, and the transmission of said RF signal having a predetermined polarity.

Claim 61. Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

62. (Currently Amended) A portable keying device that is configured for installing at least one encryption key into at least one electronic terminal, said portable keying device comprising:

a memory device for storing at least one encryption key; and

a communications unit coupled to said memory device, said communications unit being operative to transmit said at least one encryption key in a predetermined format to at least one electronic terminal, said predetermined format including transmission of an RF signal at a predetermined power level ~~a signal having an effective transmitting range of less than or equal to one meter~~, said predetermined format further including a signal being transmitted from said portable keying device in a predetermined direction;

said at least one electronic terminal includes a secure memory location for storing at least one data communications encryption key and is configured to employ said encryption key for the purpose of encrypting input data.

63. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 62, wherein the communications unit includes low~~[-]~~power~~[-]~~close proximity RF transceiver.

64. (Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer)

65. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[64]]~~[[62]], wherein the predetermined power level is less than or equal to 1mW.

66. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[64]]~~[[62]], wherein the RF signal has an effective range of less than or equal to a meter.

67. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 63, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction residing within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

68. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 63, wherein the predetermined format includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined polarity.

69. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 62, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction residing within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

70. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 62, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction residing within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a central emission vector.

71. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 62, wherein the at least one encryption key is installed in the electronic terminal in accordance with a predetermined protocol.

72. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 71, wherein the predetermined protocol includes:

performing a handshaking routine, whereby the keying device and the electronic terminal exchange handshaking messages;

transmitting the at least one encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal in response to a successful handshaking routine;
validating the step of transmitting by re-transmitting the at least one encryption key from the electronic terminal to the keying device, whereby the keying device compares the transmitted encryption key to the re-transmitted encryption key; and

storing the at least one encryption key in the secure encryption key memory location in response to a successful step of validating.

73. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 71, wherein the step of validating includes transmitting a test encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal.

74. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 73, wherein the electronic terminal compares the test encryption key with a currently in-use encryption key stored in the secure encryption key memory location.

75. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 72, wherein the secure encryption key memory location is a memory location in non-volatile memory.

76. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes E²PROM.

77. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes EPROM.

78. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes Flash memory.

79. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes battery-backed RAM.

80. (Previously Presented) A method for installing an encryption key in an electronic terminal, the electronic terminal including a secure encryption key memory location for storing the at least one encryption key, the method comprising:

providing a portable keying device, whereby the portable keying device is physically separated from the electronic terminal, said portable keying device being configured to transmit said at least one encryption key in a predetermined format to the electronic terminal, said predetermined format including a signal having an effective transmitting range of less than or equal to one meter, said predetermined format further including a signal being transmitted in a predetermined direction from said portable keying device;

pointing said portable keying device toward said electronic terminal;

performing a handshaking routine, whereby the keying device and the electronic terminal exchange handshaking messages;

transmitting an encryption key from the portable keying device to the electronic terminal; and

storing the encryption key transmitted from the portable keying device to the electronic terminal in the secure key memory location.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the step of performing a handshaking routine includes transmitting an authorization signal from the portable keying device to the electronic terminal.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein the portable keying device provides the electronic terminal with a predetermined authorization code during the step of transmitting an authorization signal.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the step of performing a handshaking routine includes transmitting RF signals having at least one predetermined transmission characteristic.

84. (Previously Presented) he method of claim 83, wherein the at least one predetermined transmission characteristic includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined range.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said predetermined direction includes is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said predetermined direction includes is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said predetermined direction includes is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a central emission vector.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein the at least one predetermined transmission characteristic includes a transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined polarity.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein the at least one predetermined transmission characteristic includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined modulation format that is characterized by a predetermined programming voltage.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein the step of transmitting an encryption key further comprises:

transmitting the at least one encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal in response to a successful handshaking routine;

validating the step of transmitting by re-transmitting the at least one encryption key from the electronic terminal to the keying device, whereby the keying device compares the transmitted encryption key to the re-transmitted encryption key; and

storing the at least one encryption key in the secure encryption key memory location in response to a successful step of validating.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the step of validating includes transmitting a test encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal before transmitting the at least one encryption key.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of validating includes the electronic terminal comparing the test encryption key with a currently in-use encryption key stored in the secure encryption key memory location.

93. (Currently Amended) A portable key installation system for installing an encryption key, the system comprising:

at least one electronic terminal having a secure encryption key memory adapted to store the at least one encryption key, and a terminal communications unit coupled to the secure encryption key memory; and

a portable keying device including a memory adapted to store the at least one encryption key, and a device communications unit coupled to the memory device, the device communications unit being adapted to bi-directionally communicate the at least one encryption key in a predetermined format to the terminal communications unit, said predetermined format including transmission of an RF signal at a predetermined power level ~~a signal having an effective transmitting range of less than or equal to one meter,~~ said predetermined format further including a signal being transmitted in a predetermined direction from said portable keying device.

94. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 93, wherein the terminal communications unit and the device communications unit include low[~~(-)~~]power[~~(-)~~]close proximity RF transceivers.
95. (Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer)
96. (Previously Presented) The portable key installation system of claim 93, wherein said portable keying device includes a display and a keyboard, said display being disposed in a first direction relative to said keyboard, and wherein said predetermined direction at which said signal is transmitted from said portable keying device is substantially the same direction as said first direction.
97. (Previously Presented) The portable key installation system of claim 93, wherein said portable keying device includes a display, and wherein said portable keying device is configured to display an error message on said display if a key transmission from said portable keying device to said at least one electronic terminal is not successful.
98. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[93]]~~~~[[95]]~~, wherein the predetermined power level is less than or equal to 1mW.
99. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[93]]~~~~[[95]]~~, wherein the RF signal has an effective range of less than or equal to a meter.
100. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[93]]~~~~[[95]]~~, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.
101. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

102. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a central emission vector.

103. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[93]]~~[[95]], wherein the predetermined format includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined polarity.